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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, a Senator from the State of Rhode Island.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, may Your Name be magnified. Today, give our lawmakers the wisdom to put their trust in You. Help them to accept Your guidance and seek Your insights. Keep them from being intimidated by the many challenges they face, infusing them with confidence in Your power. Make them so sure of Your presence that no task may be too wearisome for them and no setback too daunting. Let their faith lead them away from strife and division as they find unity for the good of the Nation and world. May they depend unswervingly upon Your unlimited goodness.

We pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable SHELDON WHITEHOUSE,

a Senator from the State of Rhode Island, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we will shortly resume consideration of the energy legislation. There are no rollcall votes scheduled today. We have heard from a number of Senators on both sides of the aisle of their desire to come and offer amendments. The managers of the bill have indicated they are willing to set amendments aside to move on that. I think that is appropriate.

There will also be no rollcall votes on Monday. This has been a long schedule, but it is, again, my hope that Members will take that opportunity to come offer and debate amendments on this energy legislation.

Sometime next week—and I will meet and discuss this with the distinguished Republican leader—if this debate doesn't speed up and more amendments are not offered, then we will have to see if we can move to end the debate and finish this legislation.

There are issues that are important. There has to be some decision, a finality made with regard to the pieces of the bill that are so important, such as the renewable portfolio standard, the CAFE standards, and there is also interest in coal-to-liquid and the different ways that can be done.

As I understand it, those are the three big issues, so I would hope Members who have those issues, whether

amendments or whatever else they want to focus their attention on, would do so. The American people want us to do something dealing with energy. This is a good bipartisan bill, and I would hope Members would understand this is their time to come and offer amendments.

I would also note, as indicated in the morning press, that Senator McCONNELL and I met last evening with a bipartisan group of Senators regarding immigration, and we now have a pathway forward on that. When we finish the energy legislation, we will move to that legislation. I think we have now an agreed-upon number of amendments that will be offered by Republicans and Democrats and we should get to that sometime next week.

We are going to finish that legislation and the energy legislation prior to our having our Fourth of July recess. I would also indicate to all Senators and staffs, it is Friday, and I know that a lot of times—I would not say a lot of times but on a number of occasions—I have indicated we might have to work weekends. I know this causes a lot of stress to folks. But everyone should know that to complete this bill and to complete the immigration bill will require next weekend, without any question, next weekend, Saturday and Sunday.

Now, of course, it is always possible that through unanimous consent certain work that could be done in 1 day could be put over to another day, and I understand that. But Senators should understand this is the real thing. If we are going to finish these two bills, which both the Republican leader and I think is absolutely mandatory and essential, Senators should be advised that next Saturday and Sunday, which means the preceding Friday, which is a week from today, and a week from Monday, we will be in session.

We only have 2 weeks left in this work period, and I hope we don't have to run into the Fourth of July recess

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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